WELCOME NGAMARU

MR VERA'S

ORIGINAL HOMEMADE

ATIU JOURNAL

No 38 Independent

29 December 1988

Atiu-Cook Islands $1.50

INSIDE

THE MEDIA -FREE OR NOT TOO FREE ?

A CIP candidate tells us $5000 of foreign-acq-ired CIP money is backing Raro paper, the PRESS.

Does this mean the CIP's have "bought" a paper?

Is any CIs. paper truly "free".

'WE ARE SICK OF NOT HEARING THE TRUTH!':

— TEARIKI SIMIONA

He faces possibly the toughest of all the 1989 Election battles...trying to oppose Coalition "metua" Mariri Parataiinga in the Mapumai/Te Enui constituency without even the help of a "split" vote to to aid the cause.

Pro-Parataiinga supporters scoff at the mere mention of his name.

But CIP candidate Teariki Simiona is far from over-awed by the task of trying to win over electors in the very seat his father (Ombudsman Tangata Simiona) once held...for the Demos!

In fact, just before Christmas he launched a *powerful, all-embracing attack* on Government, on the sitting Atiu members and even upon the notorious Atiuan European "war"!

The JOURNAL's exclusive in-depth interview gives you the full CIP case. If you want to know what the election's all about...THIS IS A MUST!!

ELECTION 89 ✓

WHO'S GONNA WIN ?

POLITICS

INSIDE

ATIU NO 1

Atiu College's top student, George Trophy *winner Mangorei* Mataio. End of year awards INSIDE.

MR VERA'S ATIU JOURNAL

Independent

P. O. ATIU

Cook Islands

a national publication

Published and Printed by TERAI MANEA (sole proprietor Terupe Patiare Kelly).

This publication is independent of all political parties and factions in the Cook Islands.

EDITOR: "vera"

Happy the Brain!

Editorial

Comment

Fairly fearless commentary on what's going on on both sides of the lagoon. Any ressemblance to actual persons living or dead is totally intentional.

WELCOME TO WHAT!

Christmas and New Year visits from relatives overseas are obviously times for rejoicing.

The son or daughter back from scholarship; the distant aunt; the almost forgotten uncle; the long-lost friend; the grown-up cousin; the new baby....they all play their role in the annual Christmas drama.

The drama itself has many moods, from knock-about comedy outings on crisps and cartons to intense little family cameos of love and grief and joy and bitterness and a deep, deep nostalgia.

Underlying it all, however, is the bitter-sweet theme of departure and arrival which produces a final screenplay which is nothing more or less than tragedy.

It is 45 years since the start of the great economic exodus by the Cook Islands working class.

Almost half a century in which this country has witnessed a drain of manpower and talent to Tahiti, New Zealand and Australia which amounts to well over twice the remaining resident population.

In that time, Cook Islands expatriates have funded family survival back home and enabled whole communities to continue to exist.

They have taken on and frequently beaten the odds which are stacked against the second class citizen abroad.

To welcome them back at Christmas time to a homeland which survives on their hand-outs from abroad and government hand-outs at home, a homeland of laziness, inefficiency and idle self-indulgence, a homeland whose capital is being relentlessly turned into a white suburb of Auckland, ...that is an empty welcome no matter how much good cheer flows up and down the umukai tables.

A welcome of lasting value would be to turn te enua ipukarea into the kind of homeland which offers those overseas a good job, at decent wages and a decent stake in nation-building.

That, not what we see today, is Maori self-government.

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SERVICE.

ADVERTISING COSTS, RIGHT?

ALL POLITICAL ADVERTISING IN THE JOURNAL IS FREE TO ALL CANDIDATES AND REGISTERED PARTIES AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE. WITH OUR RESPECTS TO ALL CANDIDATES. 'IA MANUIA KOTOU. FREE INFORMATION IS A PEOPLE'S RIGHT IN THE VIEW OF THIS PUBLICATION.

CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY

Scene:

A kikau shack not far from Vladivostok.

ENTER Cook Islands Consul for Kamchatka, in private Ilyushin Learjet on loan from the Cook Islands Consul for Siberia South.

CONSUL:
Kia orana viewers. Tonight I have with me one of the least known among the several zillion candidates entering the upcoming General Election...Mr. Metu Taropatchki. Good evening e Metu! Kia orana i te aroa o te Atua etc.

M.T.:
Da!

CONSUL:
Now, Metu, I understand you have entered your name for the overseas seat.

M.T.:
Da! Why not?

CONSUL:
Indeed. I also understand you left the Cook Islands 68 years ago and currently have no recollection of where the Cook Islands are?

M.T.:
Da. That is correct.

CONSUL:
I also note from your manifesto that you have no intention of ever returning to the Cook Islands.

M.T.:
What for should I return? I tell the truth, tovarich. That is what I and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Myself stand for. The truth.

CONSUL:
In that case, Metu, what precisely do you offer to the people back home?

M.T.:
To the good people back home, I am proud to say I offer precisely nothing.

CONSUL:
But, obviously, you still identify yourself closely with the aspirations of the struggling people?

M.T.:
Niet. If they want to struggle that's their problem. Not mine.

CONSUL:
Nevertheless, you will presumably be offering some solutions to the pressing problems faced by the people at this time?

M.T.:
Niet. I have enough problems of my own. Should I have the honour of being elected to represent my people, my own problems will be an urgent priority.

CONSUL:
So, what you are saying is that you personally embody the suffering of the people and in finding a solution to your own problems, you are in effect solving the problems of the people as a whole.

M.T.:
Niet. What I am saying is that I am broke!

EXEUNT.

ABOVE: Metu Taropatchki, overseas candidate... saying "niet"

"No, but Seriously"

MEET

TEARIKI SIMIONA

exclusive!

CIP candidate for the Mapumai/Te Enui seat on Atiu, Teariki Simiona has one of the toughest of all General Election tasks when he challenges sitting government member Mariri Parataiinga (CIP-Demo Coalition).

On the surface, the issues in this seat seem quite clear. Mr. Parataiinga stands on his past record as a long-serving Atiuan

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

"metua" and, since 1985, as a hard-working MP under the Coalition banner. He claims to be anti-party and to be standing for the local interests of all Atiuans.

Against this populist stance, Mr. Simiona has based his campaign on attacking ex-CIP Parataiinga's desertion of the Central Party, on attempting to round up on his side CIP loyalists (ironically) in coalition with the Demos who once supported his father (Ombudsman Tangata Simiona) and who have no Demo candidate to vote for.

Within this local strategy Mr. Simiona loyally campaigns on National CIP platform issues, claiming to stand for "honesty, loyalty and hard work."

This is the second JOURNAL interview with Teariki Simiona this year, the other being in April.

The interview, with our great appreciation to Mr. Simiona, is presented without comment below.

POLITICS

JOURNAL: With a month to go, how do you feel your campaign is shaping up?

TS: I'm very happy. When I first came back, I could see Mariri has done his work convincing the CIP's that he is their man. But that has all changed now. Dramatically changed.

JOURNAL: How has that come about, in your view?

TS: They heard it from Geoff's (CIP leader Geoffrey Henry) own mouth. The leader told them the truth about Mariri and how he has deceived his former party supporters. Geoff rammed home several good points and the truth came across.

JOURNAL: You don't feel he came across too strong, then and put people off?

TS: Nonsense. All the signs after his visit were good for us.

JOURNAL: So you are confident you will get the CIP vote.

TS: Very confident. Mariri won't get CIP supporters. Just his friends. HE's the one people are afraid of. Not Geoffrey Henry.

That's why he may think the CIP's are behind him. But he'll find out the truth at the ballot box.

JOURNAL: How are you getting along with the Demos, especially in Te Enui where they are a majority?

TS: Very well. I think they are shy at the moment. They haven't got a candidate and don't want to vote for Mariri. Next week, I'll be going through the manifesto with them. And the truth will come across. I represent what they stand for. And they have no need to fear me. Unlike Mariri and Norman George, I don't make others do the talking for me. I face people head on. And it's appreciated.

JOURNAL: Do you sense an overall mood among the people?

TS: Yes, indeed. People are sick of not hearing the truth.

JOURNAL: What do you mean exactly by that?

TS: Never having anything properly explained to them. Never having the right to know the full facts. Having a simple dog issue, for example ending up in politics.

Most seriously, though, there's a serious matter of the people's

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

ELECT TEARIKI - A MAN OF TRUTH AND HONESTY

ONE TO WATCH

(An advertisement from the Campaign for the Election of Teariki Simiona, YOUR STRAIGHT CIP CANDIDATE!!)

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

rights to freedom of speech on Atiu involved.

JCURNAL: That's a serious allegation. Can you back it up with some facts?

TS: Certainly. I attended a very important meeting for the Atiu people recently. I couldn't believe it when the Chairman actually threatened to bring in the police if anyone spoke out of turn! I gather, too, that bullying is considered part of a chairman's duty on Atiu! It never used to be that way. It is not the Atiu Way I used to know to cut people off if they want to speak. Or to threaten people with the police if you don't agree with them!

CIP Leader Geoffrey Henry whose recent Atiu campaign visit was judged by Coalitionists to be a scaremongering "Not so" says CIP candidate Teariki Simiona.

JCURNAL: What about the practical policy issues of the election? Are you trying to run a positive campaign offering solutions to problems?

TS:.Certainly, we are. They are more important than attacking Norman or Mariri personally.

JOURNAL: And how do you evaluate the policy issues?

TS: Well, there are Atiu issues and national issues which affect Atiu.

JOURNAL: Such as?

TS: On Atiu, it's a question of the people knowing exactly what is going on in the development areas. We have no say in development. Take the Nga Maru Rua, for example. That was a Triad venture NOT an Atiu development. Triad had problems with the KALI long before Norman got involved. What Triad did was to cleverly get government solve their KALI problems. The situation is now that, in all development on Atiu, Norman decides, Norman negotiates, Norman approves and Norman orders everyone to support him. No one is consulted. No one may ask questions. THAT is wrong. Very wrong. It must be changed and I will make sure it is changed because the one thing Norman does NOT do is carry the can if things go wrong. Such as they will, if this boat fails to meet schedules and we end up with dumped produce again.

JCURNAL: What national issues are important to Atiu?

TS: The ones I've been talking about to the people are the CIP plans to raise the Old Age pension immediately to $100, the Child Allowance to $30 and the Destitute Allowance to $50 a month.

JOURNAL: How do the CIP's propose to fund all that?

TS: Very easy. We know full well that such moves can be brought in straight away by simply cutting back on travel and other ministerial luxuries.

Neville Pearson, former Atiu CIP candidate and Central Party Exec.

Major critic of the "George era,"

"Big Norm"-focal point of anti-government propaganda throughout the country. Tough, confrontational and polarising...even in little Atiu!

JOURNAL: What other moves in the social services would the CIP consider?

TS: It's all in a big mess at the moment. The Departments have put themselves above the Ministers. No one controls the Permanent Secretaries. They form ad hoc policies of their own. You can't blame them, I suppose. There are no government policies for anything and the Ministers don't know what they are supposed to be doing plus they are responsible to no parties or any section of the public. So it's bound to be the mess we can see in education, health and agriculture, the big three.

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

SUPPORT ATIU

TURA KORONUI

STANDS

FOR

THE PEOPLE OF TE NGATANGI, NGATIARUA

AND

AREORA

AGAINST NORMAN GEORGE

Support the Campaign and Donate to:
TURA KORONUI P.O. BOX 882 RAROTONGA

IT'S GOT TO BE

TURA

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

JOURNAL: That may or may not be right.. But what does CIP propose?

TS: Efficient management and a clear policy, for a start. That will give us the time for the very, very big task we shall have to put them right. Especially agriculture where the grower is so disheartened that on many islands he's given up...knowing that all he can hope for is accumulating more debts.

JOURNAL: Many people seem scared that the CIP's will dismiss workers.

TS: Absolutely untrue. No one will be dismissed. Any jobs we consider not worth while under the Norman hand-out policy will only be withdrawn when the present holder retires or leaves. I think people have been misled by government. They have been kept in ignorance by leaders who play the Maori Way but act the Papa'a Way.

JOURNAL: Meaning?

TS: The best exam[illegible] is Norman George. In his actions and thinking, he is full papa'a. Only when it suits the game does he start being a Maori. He never trusts the Maori people to make up their own minds. That's what causes hatred and bitterness. We Maoris don't like being dictated to.

JOURNAL: Do you agree with the paper's view that much of the division on Atiu that is unpleasant is a result of the commercial clash between Roger Malcolm and Jurgen Manske.

TS: Yes, I do most definitely. Even though Roger may be on Tura's side. The situation must be rectified. I think the conduct of both of them is disgraceful. They should be setting an example of reasonable behaviour to those who can't get on with each other well.

Our community is too [illegible] for their sort of quarelling. It must be changed. And they must demonstrate that they can live in peace and harmony. The people seem sick, not of them, but of their dispute.

JOURNAL: There are two big negative factors we claim which can be held against the CIP. One, the possibility of job dismissals and favouritism, you have dealt with. The other is the matter of your campaign being funded by foreign money. Specifically by Mr. Richard Barton, the former Cls. Consul in Australia.

TS: I am aware of no foreign money involved in the campaign. I have paid my own nomination fee and so has Tura. Each constituency was asked to build up a war-chest of $3000. Ours is still short. But I think Tura has done pretty well with his, through selling flying fish.

JOURNAL: Are you stating that there is no foreign money at all in the CIP campaign. Nothing that could be considered foreign funding?

TS: To the best of my knowledge, overseas funds have only been used for the printing of the manifesto and for an advance to the PRESS.

JOURNAL: In prepaid advertisements?

TS: I think so.

JOURNAL: And Mr. Henry's recent trip to NZ?

TS: That, most definitely, was paid for by the NZ branch of the Party.

JOURNAL: So, as far as Atiu is concerned, you will go on record as stating that no foreign funding is involved.

(SEE BELOW)

TS: Definitely.

JOURNAL: Another national issue is, of course, the current 5-year term of Parliament. What are your own thoughts on that?

TS: Personally, I want it changed. It is too long. We should go right back to a 3-year term Like NZ.

JOURNAL: Speaking of NZ, you, like the Labour Party candidate here, are a recent returner from NZ after a long time. Some hold this against you. Do you think the NZ experience is worthwhile?

TS: Very much so. I think our people have a lot to learn from the NZ experience. For a start, it teaches you to stick at something. Not to give up at the first disappointment. It teaches you to analyse a theory and mould it to practical use. Our people are often too

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

C.I.L.P.

BE THERE...

FOR THE PEOPLE....

FOR YOU AND ME....

FOR.....

LABOUR

AML

AFTER WORK
WEEK-ENDS
TONIGHT

COME
TO
AUNTIE
KURA

WELCOME

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

kind-hearted. Those of us who have been through the NZ experience know the reality of the modern world.

JOURNAL: How ould you describe yourself ?

TS: A Christian first. And a man of peace. Whenever I enter people's houses I like to make sure they know that about me, at least. We always start a discussion in the home with a prayer..to establish a peaceful atmosphere.

JOURNAL: Would you support the Labour Party's call for religion to be taught in schools?

TS: Why not? I think that may be a good idea. We need our children to have a religious background. Religion sets an example of how to live in peace and harmony. I find that missing on Atiu today. I want to see it rectified.

JOURNAL: Our political ads are free as a community service. Would you like one on yourself?

TS: Sure. Why not ?

JOURNAL: How would you like it? What should we say?

TS: Just say I'm a man of truth and honesty. That's what I can offer the people.

JOURNAL: And will you stick at your constituency if you are beaten in the election?

JOURNAL: I will succeed. First time. The question's not relevant!

THE NEGATIVES

COMMENTARY

Teariki Simiona's interview (above) disposed, at least in the JOURNAL's view, of many of the so-called negatives which have been thrown the CIP's way recently.

The only further comment we would make concerns the issue of foreign funding.

Many CIP's have assured us that Atiu's CIP funding is from within the party... ..totally.

But, next week, the manifesto (a document predicted by a local supporter to be of very high quality in print) arrives here, it seems.

Now Mr. Simiona tells us that the manifesto and a financial payment to the Rarotonga PRESS came from a "foreign" source.

Now, of course, that word "foreign" can mean all sorts

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

TU

Tura Koronui stands in Atiu against Norman George.

SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN!

Donate to The Tura Koronui Campaign. P.O. BOX 882 RAROTONGA.

Back to the taro patch... No mansion on the hill.. For Tura Koronui.

Does Government... Get up your nose?

GET A FRESH SMELL IN GOVERNMENT!!

SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN!!

Donate to The Tura Koronui Campaign.

SUPPORT TURA KORONUI'S CAMPAIGN FOR THE ATIU SEAT!

Donations... P.O. BOX 882 RAROTONGA

RA

the quorums — an everyday tale of political folk — tropo

OH DEAR, OH DEAR, OH DEAR... THIS COULD BE MOST EMBARRASSING FOR TE MINITA COME JANUARY 20... NOW WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT FILM? THE JACKAL CONNECTION? THE DAY OF THE FRENCH? THE GODMOTHER?
AUE! I KNOW THERE'S A TECHNICAL PROCEDURE! SCRUBBING?... DRYING?... RINSING? BLEACHING?.... ...AIRING?....
MINITA
GOT IT!
YEN
ZILLION LIRA
BLUE PACIFIC LAUNDRY

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

of things to Cook Islanders.

The JOURNAL uses it in the sense that, we believe, Mr. Simiona and all ordinary Cook Islanders mean it. We know what "foreign" is and Mr. Henry himself has, in the past, rightly on behalf of the people, condemned "word tricks" which revolve around companies which take out a part sharing in a "Cook Islands company" and then legally describe themselves as a "wholly Cook Is. company.".

If a political party obtained funding from such a "Cook Is. company" or through such a "Cook Islands company", our legal contacts suggest that this may possibly be judged by some as the moral equivalent of "laundering".

Another, we believe, unimpeachable source informs us that there is a Raro company with a great deal of Australian money behind it which may consider it in its interests to assist with the funding of a political party.

We hope not.

As the JOURNAL has attempted to expose, over 18 hard months, all opposition parties have a strong positive local case to present to the electorate.

Similarly, the former ruling coalition has a strong case, maybe not nationally...but certainly to grassroots voters in their constituencies.

It is our belief that the Raro business community have an excellent record of non-interference directly in the people's political process.

They are to be commended. PNG, Vanuatu, Fiji, NC and Tahiti have a far less enviable record.

The JOURNAL supports totally the US stance on nationals being involved in the funding of political parties overseas. And we wish the US would carry the policy out sometimes!

The Cook Islands has enough problems controlling the proper, legal and above-board alterations to society by foreign business money and investment.

We have no need whatsoever for foreign nationals to be involved in any way in the political process.

It is bad enough for Cook Islanders to have the election which controls their lives and families at the mercy of foreign nationals who have been in the country for a mere one year and may vote..even though this time next year, they may regard the nation we belong to as a mere "traveller's experience".

To have a foreign national apparently at the heart of a major political party's activities is intolerable.

Finbar Kenny lives!

The message is of particuler concern to Atiu.

Mr. Jurgen Manske (now happily a permanent resident and entitled to all the rights of a Cook Islands citizen) once had a quite unacceptable level of control, advice and influence over Atiuan affairs...far more than the ordinary citizen could dream of exerting.

Man, it hurt.

And, if the CIP (or any other group) are mounting a campaign funded by what most ordinary voters would clearly recognise as "foreign" interests....man, that, too, hurts like hell. It matters how excell[illegible]me of their policy declarations are.

And so here's the news (FOLKS)

STOP PRESS

—BRIEFLY

David Lewis writes:

A few weeks ago, I was chatting with a respected fellow-Cook Islands writer.

"How do you think the election will go?" I asked.

His reply was curious, I felt.

"I think it will be decided in the media!"

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

An unusual reply, to say the least. Even.. an amazing reply. The Cook Islands is not exactly noted for the influence exerted over local affairs by the media. The Cook Islands public, moreover (yer average voter, bro') has never been characterised by a devotion to the printed word, whether by press, magazine, manifesto or what have you!

Yet my friend is a very experienced writer and a most perceptive political analyst.

So I puzzled. ..but kept my puzzlement to myself.

At the time, I had offered any PR and writing skills I own to the CIP partly (I admit) out of antipathy to Central Government but partly out of a feeling that an immigrant citizen's skills are at the service of those who need them especially as I was convinced the public would never get a fair shake out of CIBNC. Campaign Manager Henry Puna was courtesy itself as was CIP leader Geoffrey Henry. I discussed matters with my immediate "boss" and was ready to have a further discussion with Atiuan MP Norman George.

It was then that I discovered what (without breaking confidences) amounted to some problems.

The best contribution I could make to the cause of a "free" press was to get back to the JOURNAL.

That's the background.

Then Teariki Simiona gave the JOURNAL this issue's interview.

He was not tricked or trapped. His final summary is taped.

Transcribed it reads:

JOURNAL: There are three big negatives for the CIP's which I'd be grateful... we've gone through them..but if we could get them clear for the public's point of view...three big negatives which I see from the CIP's point of view. Firstly, the foreign finance. Now...you are unaware of any foreign finance?

TS: I am unaware.

JOURNAL: And it hasn't come into the Atiu campaign?

TS: No. Definitely not.

JOURNAL: And..if we tried to tie it down, the only areas where it could help possibly would be the manifesto and THE PRESS?

TS:Yes. That's right.

Demands on the JOURNAL:

1. Norman George.....

"I am entitled to know where you stand clearly. You may say anything you like so long as you treat every side fairly.. if you claim to be independent. Otherwise state your position and accept the consequences."

THE JOURNAL's questions were delicately posed. There was a clear danger of unethical entrapment. Hence, Mr. Simiona was asked about areas where alleged foreign money "possibly could help".

Deliberately, the whole matter was left in the realm of speculation.

Foreign funding COULD result in an electoral appeal. If a newspaper editor were proved to have been offered any form of inducement to present the news in any way other than that which the readers have been led to expect, it could be a metter of serious concern...as happened during the court hearing of 1978 when CIs. NEWS' coverage was under question.

The position is that THE PRESS has received printed accolades from highly respected citizens attesting to its impartiality. Yet,if half its funding (as is alleged by several contacts of ours in Rarotonga) is from CIP funds, it is unreasonable (at a time of crucial political activity in the country...and in view of the fact that it has appeared at a time coinciding with the Election Campaign) for this not to be made common knowledge...especially, when a trusted political analyst makes the unusual declaration that this election may be considerably influenced by the media.

Demands on the JOURNAL.

2. Atiu Mayor Teiotu T. Poto (Papa Tu).

a. Closure

b. Silent hostility

c. Cold tolerance

d. Mutual acceptance

Also, if the money emanates from Mr. Richard Barton (a foreign national) or a company in which Mr. Richard Barton is a director, then that, too, should be made public. Mr. Barton, as a former CIs. Consul, apparently dismissed by the Coalition Government, may be judged (unfairly or otherwise) to have grounds for wishing to see a CIP government which have nothing to do with the welfare of the Cook Islands people.

Foreign nationals and business companies generally (especially those with a significant foreign shareholding) have no business being involved in the election of governments in terms of significant funding UNLESS that process, at least, is kept under rigorous monitoring...as in the USA.

We do not wish to be involved in any affair which reflects upon the integrity or the commercial viability of a sister publication.

But, if the tiny media corps of the Cook Is. is to perform its function as "guardians of the palace", then from time to time someone has to be self-appointed guardian of the guardians...just as Mr. Henry and Mr. Ingram, from time to time, have correctly been towards us.

The legitimate question, at this most serious time in the nation's affairs, is not "how is our free press?" but how free is our PRESS!"...not just now but all the way up to January 19.

With all those rambling thoughts in mind and with all due respect to the CIP and to THE PRESS, the following article was considered worth writing:

Te-Reo-O-Te-Kuki-Airani

(From the Banner of the Rarotonga PRESS)

We were not prepared to say it.

Our sources were privileged.

But a CIP candidate has now said it for us.

There appears to be a considerable CIP investment in the new Rarotonga newspaper, the PRESS.

A sum of $5000 is spoken of by Mr. Simiona, approximately half what it is believed it took to set up the PRESS.

The sum is either a loan or in the form of pre-paid ads. We have been told which.

There is no problem either way, except commercially.

As Vincent Ingram once told a reporter at the time of the demise of his own TURAMA, "the problem in the CIs. is that, if your paper is identified with one party, the opposition won't buy it as they know by reducing sales they are damaging you commercially."

Overseas, papers openly carry bias.

The London Daily Telegraph is a Conservative paper; the Mirror a Labour paper; the Guardian a centre-left paper; the Economist a right-wing journal.

In Paris, a similar breakdown of the French press can be offered.

What these papers are doing are offering ideological bias.

That is, in a way, what the JOURNAL (as an opinion paper) claims to do.

That is very different to, for example, the UK Daily Worker or the French L'Humanite (both organs of their respective national communist parties) or the many government-owned papers around the world (e.g. our own CI News.)

Ideological bias represents no problem. The ideology can be that of the editor (if he is lucky and his sales stay up) or the owner or (as is usually the case) the targetted reader PLUS the targetted advertisers.

Our problem in the CIs. is that we cannot target readers or advertisers. We all need the lot!

Hence the ideolo- [illegible] which we all ar- [illegible]d to follow [illegible] maintain any viability in the CIs. is centrist.

It is summed up by the advertiser who told us:

"I'll come in if you make sure you're straight down the middle politically. Fair do's to everyone!"

Our public have the somewhat naive picture of an idealised "free" press.

Editors know that it all amounts to "doing your best" under whatever circumstances are forced upon you from outside...by the owners or the advertisers or even the public itself.

CIs News editors over the years have played the game the best way they know.

The owners of CI News, the CIBNC Board, (on behalf of government) have lost a lot of high quality staff who have found better things to do than be summoned upstairs every morning to be lectured by those who howl about press freedom when they they are in opposition and strangle it when they are in power.

But...it all comes out in the wash! And everyone can live with CI News, Te Akatauira, CIs. TIMES, Turama etc...even, we gather, the JOURNAL.

They are all what they claim to be. (Government-owned, political organs, ideological expressions etc.)

In our own case, we were subjected to, and still are, continued surveillance over our claim to "independence".

Our existence was questioned in the house. We were mildly threatened in Rarotonga, severely threatened in Atiu.

Abuse, criticism, accusations...these were all our lot.

Rightly!

The public, and especially the political leaders we quote, interview and analyse are entitled to be 100% sure about whose boat we are pushing and, if we claim to be "independent", that claim must be demonstrated week-in, week-out.

From letters and opinion passed on to us, we feel that the main battle has been won..even on Atiu, where the JOURNAL is, at last, accepted as neither Roger Malcolm's nor Norman George's tool.

Our next battle is to prove that the JOURNAL is not a Labour Party tool!

For the moment, though, we are happy that most criticism now centres upon our quality...whether or not we are a decent publication. A fair read!

The PRESS, though, still has a long row to hoe.

The news that it has accepted a large amount of money from the CIP won't help it.

Rumours abound, in addition.

Who cares ?

Nobody, if the PRESS is up front on what it is and subjects itself to the test of fire this modest little opinion sheet has undergone.

SEE NEXT PAGE

THE PRESS

OUCH!

Below the belt

The Editor of the JOURNAL takes the in-House statement of Hon. Geoffrey Henry, (SEE PAGE 1), last week to mean in translation the following..."As PM & Minister of Immigration in 1983 I gave you your permanent residence (the CI equivalent of citizenship. If I consider that the paper you edit promotes Norman George, I will deport you when I am PM again."

The Editor is unable to find any other translation. The JOURNAL will not dignify such a threat with a reply.

Demands on the JOURNAL:

5. Roger Malcolm (advertiser)

"All I want is a free press."

Demands on the JOURNAL:

3. Geoffrey Henry (see above)

4. Vincent Ingram:

"If you want to play with the big boys, don't cry when it hurts!"

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

But, so far, the PRESS has appeared to lay claim to the status of a "free" press.

That appears to be its main promotion point to date.

Its image, as such, has received the blessing of no less a figure than Lawrance Bailey, a top-class former CI News editor who once took neutrality to the extent of counting up the column inches he had offered each party and working out a balance sheet.

Fine. Lawrance's endoresement is precious among us CIs. writers, bro'. If he says it's all O.K., we'll go along with that.

But, that endoresement is to be taken seriously. Only Lawrance and Arthur Taripo could give it and we have yet to hear from Arthur, who, after all, is the only full-timer left.

If the PRESS is merely expressing ideological bias (general, middle-of-the-road liberal ideals, it appears) everyone can be comfortable.

If it is openly a vehicle for the dissemination of opposition propaganda (with a cursory nod to government from time to time), then we can be equally comfortable.

We can also say government is getting what it deserves after its outrageous, scandalous, clamp-down on CI News at a time of a General Election.

And, if it has driven yet another talented CIs. journalist like Jason Brown into anti-government writing, again, it serves the government right.

They (and that includes the whole lot of them on all sides, including Tupui Henry,(whose unctious letter in last week's PRESS really has to take the All-Time rotten pawpaw award for Hypocrisy) have done NOTHING to encourage good CIs. writing and free expression over the years.

But those are not the questions.

The only question (for it is not our role to be involved in a sister publication's policy) is the simple one of what the PRESS actually is.

It is very serious.

A couple of last-minute whopping great CIP endorsements by a paper which has only existed in the election period could be exceeding the rights of the press in this country as much as CIBNC has abused them.

According to CIP candidate Teariki Simiona, it is confirmed that $5000 of foreign supplied CIP money enabled the PRESS to come into publication.

This supports other information which has been given us.

Pre-paid ads are no problem...or at least, less of a problem than a straight loan.

Finance of up to an alleged 50% of the finance needed to float the paper IS a problem...IF that paper claims (as is implied) absolute freedom and independence.

The PRESS is excellent. Jason Brown is a loyal, hard-working young Cook Islander with the guts to do his own thing.

Why wasn't the monetary board, CIDB and all the pro- "free-press" businessmen behind him so that he need not have been driven (it appears) to seek political support from a foreign source ?

And why were the clowns who had the audacity to deny CIs. citizens in an independent Maori nation the right to free expression, not helping fund a young man with a few miserable dollars in the same way as they have been bending over backwards to help foreign business interests crawling out of every crack in the planet's crust.

Akakoromaki mai e Jason! It's not our job to interfere, we repeat. BUT..a nice clear statement of where the PRESS stands would help.

Pro CIP...no problem!

Ideologically slanted...no problem!

Neutral as best you can given etc. etc....no problem!

But CIP-funded (or Barton-funded) under the guise of a "free" press... plenty problems, bro' and that's what it's going to be unless there's a statement.

We know! We've got the bruises to show it!

AND

ATIW JOURNAL

What precisely does this curious publication claim to be.....?

The JOURNAL is a one-(sometimes two or three) person opinion journal.

It is edited by David Lewis under the pen-name of "vera", whose satirical writings have been widely published in the Cook Islands.

David Lewis is a member of the Cook Islands Labour Party.

The JOURNAL is ideologically left-wing but exists to entertain and inform. Anyone is welcome to write for it.

The JOURNAL is critical of all parties and factions and, at times, supportive of them all.

The standpoint we try to reflect is that of the working class Maori family for whom, we believe, self-government was supposed to be designed.

We make no apology for expressing that perspective in what we've been told is "difficult English".

To paraphrase Chairman Mao, "the task of the educated is to articulate those truths the peasant has known since the start of time."!

Journalistically, the JOURNAL tries to re-discover the path, overgrown since the 18th century, originally cleared by Addison and Steele. It is a path since concreted and neon-lit by the purveyors of mass media but we think, in the CIs. at least, that we have discovered a byway, a bit like one of Bill Paiti's tar-seals in Tautu, where the claims of nature will still regularly assert themselves.

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

Hence, we can wend our home-made way along the route of wild, erroneous, opinionated, truthful, unkempt "free" expression in which journalism once wandered before the ads, the computers, the the libel laws, the laser beams and the Rupert Murdochs built the mass media freeway overhead.

O.K. ? For the second time in 18 months, that's us!

18 months ago, we also said we would endorse one of the parties before the election.

We haven't forgoteen!

At the moment, though, before the end of 1988, we would like to endorse some people - our political leaders. Some of them...those who have given up their time, respected us and treated us with the courtesy of being accepted as part of the CIs. media scene:

To:

Norman George
Teariki Simiona
"Tepou" Uangakore
Geoffrey Henry
Ngereteina Puna
Vincent Ingram
Teariki Matenga
Bill Cowan
Pa Pokino
Mariri Paratainga
Rena Jonassen
Tura Koronui
Vaine Tairea

... all who have allowed us in freedom and goodwill to talk, interview, quote and never ever pressure us,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

HAPPY 1989!!

(or, at least, as happy as is possible!)

Finally, to Geoffrey Henry, Norman George and Vincent Ingram (without whom we would have no insights at all) an extra special best wishes.

CONNED FESSIONS OF A VOTER

Various opposition forces have put Norman George and the Ngamaru Rua project through the hoop for several weeks now.

It's probably time to call a halt on the petty stuff!

So long, that is, as Norman himself does not fire another broadside when it arrives in Atiu.

Most of the negatives have been answered for Atiuans.

They are largely aware that, of course, Atiu does not own the boat.

Nor does Triad Maritime.

It's on charter.

It is a result of smart entrepreneural work by Triad after the demise of the KALI.

Government's probably going to be stuck with shortfall's and subsidies, same as they were with the Silk and Boyd operation.

The Growers Association can bleat about monopolies but they haven't been over-successful in recent years in producing an alternative operation nor has the queue of boats lining up outside the reef in recent years been over-impressive!

The CIP's, also, can natter on about ADC receiving government input.

So what? Governments aren't allowed to support private enterprise directly? Since when? Who paid the Silk & Boyd subsidy, then?

Sure, Norman's altered a law or two to help ADC. So ?

The statute book is for the people to alter, if they wish. And, for sure, Norman had the people's support!

It's tough on the opposition, but the Ngamaru Rua does not really stand up as the "Normangate" they are all desperately searching for. Nor does the house!

Now, how does a policeman get to be fabulously well-off in five years..legally

Yes, legally!

That's the issue, folks. But THAT issue calls into question the whole dastardly capitalist set-up in the Cook Islands.

That challenges that the whole rotten system be dismantled.

And no 'IF' or 'BUT' or even 'about' can is going to suggest that!

Control the trips!

Stop MP's getting rich!

Come off it!

So, Atiu prepares for the Ngamaru Rua in the only way in which the whole thing is comprehendable in Atiuan terms.

It's another function!

Time for speeches and flowers and umukais!

Just a pity the Primary School's on holiday or they could have composed a pe'ee to the boat...like the Mangaian kids did a few years back to the previous Great Outer Islands Function- the Grieco Factory!

And, for a while, we can all dream. It IS our boat.

For heaven's sake, at least we have the appearance of being involved. And that's something!

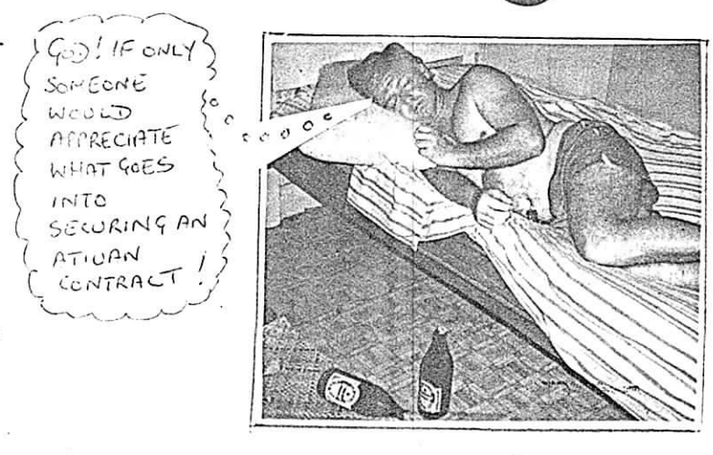
And, if Norman says it's the greatest thing since chopped yam soufflé, so be it.

He's got to say that, eh?

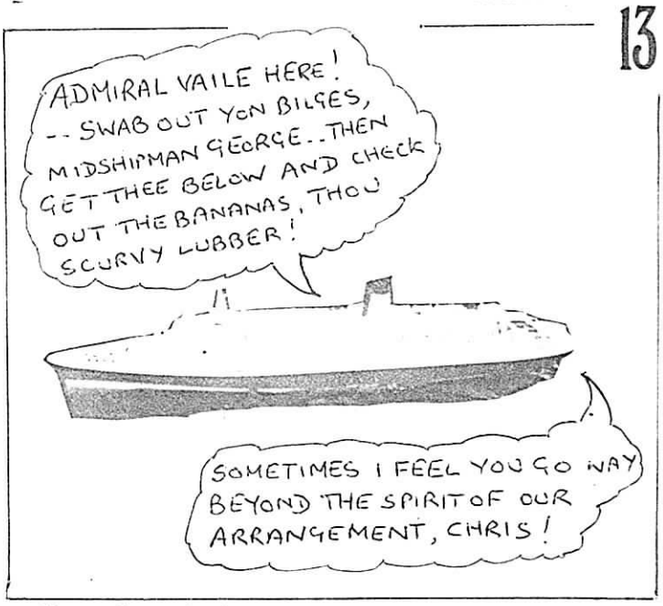
And, if the CIP's say it's all a big con, so be it, too.

What else could they say ? Good on yer Norm?

So..here's to a good kaikai, short prayers and a housing loan for supporting it all!



KOKONUT WIRELESS


ADMIRAL VAILE HERE! -- SWAB OUT YON BILGES, MIDSHIPMAN GEORGE..THEN GET THEE BELOW AND CHECK OUT THE BANANAS, THOU SCURVY LUBBER!
SOMETIMES I FEEL YOU GO WAY BEYOND THE SPIRIT OF OUR ARRANGEMENT, CHRIS!

A quick whip round the constituencies during the season of hostility and bad-will offers a few subtle shifts since a week or two ago.

Able Seaman Norm docks the Ngamaru Rua this week after its epic voyage through the oceans of envy, rot and discontent.

The event marks not so much the arrival or "the key factor in Atiu's economic survival" as the start of the Big Norm Clobberring Campaign and the Grand Opening of the Tura Crushing Season.

Norm will win, folks. That's the good news (or the bad news)!

The bad news (or the good news) is that it looks like he'll be first in line at the new Parliament to grab the best back bench.

Papa Ma, who's also going to win, doesn't agree.

He reckons his coaliton colleauges are a tricky lot (THAT'S news!!!) and can't be written off even though you don't hear much about them.

According to the PRESS, Vicenet the Saviour of the Demos has decided to become Honest Vince the CIP Campaign Manager.

Local CIP's say it's up to him but they need his help like the maito needs the ciguaterra...it keeps them alive but makes everyone look at them a bit suspiciously.

Comrade Pa continues to be having a spot of bother on the dark side of Ivirua where the other Saviour of the Demos is said to be rounding up CIP's, Unities, Labouriites and a couple of out of work skeletons from the caves in a last bid to stop the land of Pangemiro being served up for Ti!

After a breathless week or two prematurely ushering in Labour MP's in Penrhyn and Oneroa, the International Brothers of Socialist Solidarity (and sisters) may have to think again now that the member for Brisbane is up north anNIHIlating the opposition zillions and the former master of diseducation is beating Titangi over the head with the Ngamaru Rua.

The old regulars up at the Wagon Wheels are dusting down the table and polishing up the balls ready for some long sessions under the coconut tree wondering whether Mataio will take anyone on his first assistant ministerial trip.

And on THAT subject, word has it that Jolly Geoff the Saviour of the Nation actually proposed to do away with the assistant and associate ministers and the whole system would see the re-creation of the dreaded BACK-BENCHER!

Oh me o my! Oh my golly gosh! Perish the thought was the Party Reflex.

The Great Man Himself has apparentlly abandoned the idea. Enough of his 1983 Loyalists for Life are currently standing on "Curse-Geoff-He-Promised-Assistant-Minister-Of-Anything-Going-in-1983" tickets. A 1989 wing of the same "I want my lolly" group could be disastrous.

LATEST COUNT:

CIP.....10

COALITION..10

INDEPENDENT..2

TOO CLOSE to Call

THIS

Your housing, your roads, your plantation, your hospital, your wages, your transport. The shop prices. The loan system.

IS

23

YEARS

OF

SELF

GOVERNMENT

By Demos, CIP's and Coalitions

IT IT WHAT YOU ARE WORTH?

LABOUR VOTE

YOU ARE WORTH FAR MUCH MORE

HALF MARX

LESS OF THE GLASNOST, RAISA. PERESTROIKA DOES NOT INCLUDE ME DOING THE DISHES!

BURNING BUSH

MORE OF THE OLD PIZAZZ, BOYS? O.K. HOW ABOUT... "I COME NOT TO PRAISE RONALD BUT TO BURY HIM!"?

BOOOOOOOM

Le French View

Allo encore! To tell le truth, mes amis, je am not trop happy avec le way le world est going. Most of mes fellow world leaders appear to moi to be as nutty comme le fruitcake, si vous asks me. Je excludes, of course, mon tres esteemed ami le General Normal de Gorge ...or rather, je understands, le Grand Amiral Normal de Gorge. Le world have a need for les grands leaders of hommes like mon ami le Grand Amiral Normal de Gorge. Je gives him all mon support and if il needs un couple of megatonners to dispose of le ghastly Tura le Flying Fisherman, je will guarantee le immediate delivery via le excellent armaments firm of mon other grand ami, le Count Heissmiks van der Fail, Iron Cross and Holder of Le Great Tarseal

In the face of the impossible

FLY AIR Bungladesh

– A TOTAL DISASTER –

Games

Fearing a loss of galactic level sponsorship income, the International Olympick Commisariat have decided to replace several boring old traditional sports

First to go is the ludicrous traditional high jump

In its place will be the new REVERSE HIGH JUMP (above) in which competitors leap for distance DOWNWARDS!

BELOW: An idiot

No limits are placed on performance provided a competitor can move at least 5 metres out of the landing area unassisted.

The current world record is held by a Costa Rican idiot who jumped out of a helicopter at 4862ft. 3½ inches.

He has since retired.

NEWS – international

IT'S HELL OUT HERE, MES AMIS

on this planet

ONE MAN

I NOW PRONOUNCE THEE CANDIDATE AND CANDIDATE ... FOR WORSE AND WORSE ... FOR RICHER OR EVEN MORE RICHER

BEAT THAT, LOVER BOY!

ARE E MANAMANATA, SWEETHEART!

HOW ON EARTH DID I EVER COME TO MARRY AN ATIUAN!

YOUR FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

IF THIS IS THE ALTERNATIVE TO MAKING PEACE WITH JURGEN... ... WIE GEHT ES, ALTE FREUND!

THERE ARE SOME COALITIONS I DO DRAW THE LINE AT! AND THIS IS ONE!.

INTRODUCING MR SCHIZOPHRENIA 1985

THE BEER'S RUN OUT! WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO START BREAKING THE ELECTORAL ACT?

50 CENTS A DAY FOR THREE WEEKS! I RECKON WE SHOULD TRY UNCLE NORMAN, BROS!

WE HAVE AN OLD INDIAN SAYING AT THIS STAGE OF AN ELECTION — 'WHO'S GOT THE AMMUNITION?'

DADDY SAYS WE CAN ANNOY UNCLE NORMAN FOR 3 MORE WEEKS! THEN WE START ANNOYING UNCLE TORA!

AS DEPUTY CAO, I AM STRICTLY NEUTRAL! MY ONLY CONCERN IS TO AVOID GETTING NEUTRALISED!

ONE VOTE

THE LAST WORD

TORU SHIRI — VERA

christmas carol

i see three ships come sailin' in
come sailin' in
come sailin' in
i see three ships come sailin' in
or could be four...the state i'm in

the first one is the manuvai
the manuvai
the manuvai
the first one is the manuvai
waving one last sad goodbye

the next is capricornia
'pricornia
'pricornia
the next is capricornia
looking all forlornia

and then arrives the ngamaru
the ngamaru
the ngamaru
and then arrives the ngamaru
the one that's owned by me and you

HENCE

all hail and welcome said the mayor
to all the little people there
hallelujah mighty boat
come to keep our dreams afloat

BUT...

satan stood upon that quay
and shouted out in devilish glee
look you foolish people look
you've swallowed coalition's hook
all that work-together rot
is just another mayoral plot
look closely at that ngamaru
'tis painted all in demo blue
it's just how papa geoff foretold
there's not one inch of green and gold

THEN...

get thee behind me said the mayor
and launched upon a two hour prayer

AND...

never mind the people said
life is short we'll soon be dead

SO...

so what if one more dream is sunk
the main thing bro's is getting drunk

TOPS

A remarkable year for the inaugural Form Six at Atiu College ended just before Christmas with the award of 6th Form Certificates to 13 students, 9 of whom gained 20 points or less.

"An Outer Island record," noted College officials.

Top academic students were once more 14 year old Joy Vatsyayann and joint-Dux Helen Mokoroa.

Other Sixth Form Certificate Awards (i.e. University matriculation) were made to Eileen George; Paulina Matearikì; Mary Kautai; Patiare Vainerere; Tania Moe Akai; Tangimetua Koronui; Eikura Boaza; Arthur Boaza; Matangaro Vaine; Ngatokoa Teamoke. Mangorei Mataio.

The George Trophy top award for excellence went to Mangorei Mataio.

RISK IS EVERYWHERE THAT'S WHY YOU NEED

COALITION

ANOTHER WORD FOR FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

(Atiuans in support of Coalition Government)

A CHANCE FOR ALL TO SHARE IN DEVELOPMENT

THE LAST WORD OF ALL

Just for once, this week calls on everyone to put animosities aside and give a welcome to the boat that bears the name of one of the Cook Islands', Nga-Pu-Toru's and Atiu's greatest figures in modern history.. ,.Ngamaru, chief, businessman, entrepreneur and one of the most remarkable community leaders the country has ever produced.